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HOUSE BILL 1779

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By Representatives Wallace, Dunn, Haigh, Kenney, Hasegawa, B. Sullivan, McDermott, Takko, Roberts, P. Sullivan, Fromhold, Quall, Simpson, Lantz, Hudgins, Kagi, Santos, Ormsby and Morrell

Read first time 01/26/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the GET ready for math and science scholarship  
2 program; amending RCW 28B.95.060; reenacting and amending RCW  
3 43.79A.040; adding a new section to chapter 28B.95 RCW; and adding a  
4 new chapter to Title 28B RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The GET ready for math and science  
7 scholarship program is established. The purpose of the program is to  
8 provide scholarships to students who achieve level four on the  
9 mathematics or science portions of the tenth grade Washington  
10 assessment of student learning, major in a mathematics, science, or  
11 related field in college, and commit to working in mathematics,  
12 science, or a related field for at least three years in Washington  
13 following completion of their bachelor's degree. The program shall be  
14 administered by the nonprofit organization selected as the private  
15 partner in the public-private partnership.

16 (2) The total annual amount of each GET ready for math and science  
17 scholarship may vary, but shall not exceed the annual cost of resident  
18 undergraduate tuition fees and mandatory fees at the University of  
19 Washington.

1 (3) An eligible recipient may receive a GET ready for math and  
2 science scholarship for up to one hundred eighty quarter credits, or  
3 the semester equivalent, or for up to five years, whichever comes  
4 first.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Board" means the higher education coordinating board.

8 (2) "GET units" means tuition units under the advanced college  
9 tuition payment program in chapter 28B.95 RCW.

10 (3) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in  
11 RCW 28B.10.016.

12 (4) "Program administrator" means the private nonprofit corporation  
13 that is registered under Title 24 RCW and qualified as a tax-exempt  
14 entity under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code,  
15 that will serve as the private partner in the public-private  
16 partnership under this chapter.

17 (5) "Qualified program" or "qualified major" means a mathematics,  
18 science, or related degree program or major line of study offered by an  
19 institution of higher education that is included on the list of  
20 programs or majors selected by the board and the program administrator  
21 under section 9 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An eligible student is a student who:

23 (a) Is eligible for resident tuition and fee rates as defined in  
24 RCW 28B.15.012;

25 (b) Achieved level four on the mathematics or science portion of  
26 the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning;

27 (c) Has a family income at or below one hundred twenty-five percent  
28 of the state median family income at the time the student applies for  
29 a GET ready for math and science scholarship and for up to the two  
30 previous years;

31 (d) Has declared an intention to complete a qualified program or  
32 qualified major or has entered a qualified program or declared a  
33 qualified major at an institution of higher education;

34 (e) Has declared an intention to work in a mathematics, science, or  
35 related field in Washington for at least three years immediately  
36 following completion of a bachelor's degree or higher degree.

1 (2) An eligible recipient is an eligible student who:

2 (a) Enrolls at an institution of higher education within one year  
3 of graduating from high school;

4 (b) Maintains satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the  
5 institution of higher education where the student is enrolled;

6 (c) Takes at least one college-level mathematics or science course  
7 each term since enrolling in an institution of higher education; and

8 (d) Enters a qualified program or qualified major no later than the  
9 end of the first term in which the student has junior level standing.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) If the student enrolls in a qualified  
11 program or declares a qualified major and the program or major is  
12 subsequently removed from the list of qualified programs and qualified  
13 majors by the board and the program administrator, the student's  
14 eligibility to receive a GET ready for math and science scholarship  
15 shall not be affected.

16 (2) If a student who received a GET ready for math and science  
17 scholarship ceases to be enrolled in an institution of higher  
18 education, withdraws or is no longer enrolled in a qualified program,  
19 declares a major that is not a qualified major, or otherwise is no  
20 longer eligible to receive a GET ready for math and science  
21 scholarship, the student shall notify the program administrator as soon  
22 as practicable and is not eligible for further GET ready for math and  
23 science scholarship awards. Such a student shall also repay the amount  
24 of the GET ready for math and science scholarship awarded to the  
25 student as required by section 5 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) A recipient of a GET ready for math and  
27 science scholarship incurs an obligation to repay the scholarship, with  
28 interest and an equalization fee, if he or she does not:

29 (a) Graduate with a bachelor's degree from a qualified program or  
30 in a qualified major within five years of first enrolling at an  
31 institution of higher education; and

32 (b) Work in Washington in a mathematics, science, or related  
33 occupation full time for at least three years following completion of  
34 a bachelor's degree, unless he or she is enrolled in a graduate degree  
35 program as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

1 (2) A former scholarship recipient who has earned a bachelor's  
2 degree shall annually verify to the board that he or she is working  
3 full time in a mathematics, science, or related field for three years.

4 (3) If a former scholarship recipient begins but then stops working  
5 full time in a mathematics, science, or related field within three  
6 years following completion of a bachelor's degree, he or she shall pay  
7 back a prorated portion of the amount of the GET ready for math and  
8 science scholarship award received by the recipient, plus interest and  
9 a prorated equalization fee.

10 (4) A recipient may postpone for up to three years his or her in-  
11 state work obligation if he or she enrolls full time in a graduate  
12 degree program in mathematics, science, or a related field.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The office of the superintendent of public  
14 instruction shall:

15 (1) Notify elementary, middle, junior high, and high school  
16 students, parents, teachers, counselors, and principals about the GET  
17 ready for math and science scholarship program;

18 (2) Notify students who achieve level four of the mathematics or  
19 science Washington assessment of student learning in tenth grade that  
20 they may be eligible to apply for a GET ready for math and science  
21 scholarship and provide them with contact information for the program  
22 administrator; and

23 (3) Notify the program administrator and the board, as early as  
24 possible during the fall of the students' junior year in high school,  
25 of the names and contact information of all students who achieved level  
26 four on the mathematics or science Washington assessment of student  
27 learning during tenth grade so that the program administrator may  
28 provide them with scholarship information.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The board shall:

30 (1) Purchase GET units to be owned and held in trust by the board,  
31 for the purpose of scholarship awards as provided for in this section;

32 (2) Distribute scholarship funds, in the form of GET units or  
33 through direct payments from the GET ready for math and science  
34 scholarship account, to institutions of higher education on behalf of  
35 eligible recipients identified by the program administrator;

1 (3) Provide the program administrator with annual reports regarding  
2 enrollment, contact, and graduation information of GET ready for math  
3 and science scholarship recipients, if the recipients have given  
4 permission for the board to do so; and

5 (4) Collect repayments from former scholarship recipients who do  
6 not meet the eligibility criteria or work obligations.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The program administrator shall:

8 (1) Solicit and accept grants and donations from private sources to  
9 match state funds appropriated for the GET ready for math and science  
10 scholarship program;

11 (2) Develop and implement an application, selection, and  
12 notification process for awarding GET ready for math and science  
13 scholarships;

14 (3) Notify institutions of higher education of scholarship  
15 recipients who will attend their institutions and inform them of the  
16 terms of the students' eligibility; and

17 (4) Report to private donors on the program outcomes and facilitate  
18 contact between scholarship recipients and donors, if the recipients  
19 have given the program administrator permission to do so, in order for  
20 donors to offer employment opportunities, internships, and career  
21 information to recipients.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The board and the program administrator  
23 shall jointly determine, on a biennial basis, which undergraduate  
24 programs and majors leading to a bachelor's degree in mathematics,  
25 science, or a related field, offered by institutions of higher  
26 education are qualified programs or qualified majors. The board shall  
27 publish the list of qualified programs and qualified majors on its web  
28 site.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The GET ready for math and science  
30 scholarship account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.

31 (2) The board shall deposit into the account all money received for  
32 the GET ready for math and science scholarship program from  
33 appropriations and private sources. The account shall be  
34 self-sustaining.

1 (3) Expenditures from the account shall be used for scholarships to  
2 eligible students and for purchases of GET units. Purchased GET units  
3 shall be owned and held in trust by the board. Expenditures from the  
4 account shall be an equal match of state appropriations and private  
5 funds raised by the program administrator.

6 (4) With the exception of the operating costs associated with the  
7 management of the account by the treasurer's office as authorized in  
8 chapter 43.79A RCW, the account shall be credited with all investment  
9 income earned by the account.

10 (5) Disbursements from the account are exempt from appropriations  
11 and the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW.

12 (6) Disbursements from the account shall be made only on the  
13 authorization of the board.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.95  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 Ownership of tuition units purchased by the higher education  
17 coordinating board for the GET ready for math and science scholarship  
18 program under section 7 of this act shall be in the name of the state  
19 of Washington and may be redeemed by the state of Washington on behalf  
20 of recipients of GET ready for math and science scholarship program  
21 scholarships for tuition and fees.

22 **Sec. 12.** RCW 28B.95.060 and 2000 c 14 s 5 are each amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 (1) The Washington advanced college tuition payment program account  
25 is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The account shall be  
26 a discrete nontreasury account retaining its interest earnings in  
27 accordance with RCW 43.79A.040.

28 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the governing  
29 body shall deposit in the account all money received for the program.  
30 The account shall be self-sustaining and consist of payments received  
31 from purchasers of tuition units and funds received from other sources,  
32 public or private. With the exception of investment and operating  
33 costs associated with the investment of money by the investment board  
34 paid under RCW 43.33A.160 and 43.84.160, the account shall be credited  
35 with all investment income earned by the account. Disbursements from  
36 the account are exempt from appropriations and the allotment provisions

1 of chapter 43.88 RCW. Money used for program administration is subject  
2 to the allotment of all expenditures. However, an appropriation is not  
3 required for such expenditures. Program administration shall include,  
4 but not be limited to: The salaries and expenses of the program  
5 personnel including lease payments, travel, and goods and services  
6 necessary for program operation; contracts for program promotion and  
7 advertisement, audits, and account management; and other general costs  
8 of conducting the business of the program.

9 (b) All money received by the program from the higher education  
10 coordinating board for the GET ready for math and science scholarship  
11 program shall be deposited in the GET ready for math and science  
12 scholarship account created in section 10 of this act.

13 (3) The assets of the account may be spent without appropriation  
14 for the purpose of making payments to institutions of higher education  
15 on behalf of the qualified beneficiaries, making refunds, transfers, or  
16 direct payments upon the termination of the Washington advanced college  
17 tuition payment program. Disbursements from the account shall be made  
18 only on the authorization of the governing body.

19 (4) With regard to the assets of the account, the state acts in a  
20 fiduciary, not ownership, capacity. Therefore the assets of the  
21 program are not considered state money, common cash, or revenue to the  
22 state.

23 **Sec. 13.** RCW 43.79A.040 and 2006 c 311 s 21 and 2006 c 120 s 2 are  
24 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

25 (1) Money in the treasurer's trust fund may be deposited, invested,  
26 and reinvested by the state treasurer in accordance with RCW 43.84.080  
27 in the same manner and to the same extent as if the money were in the  
28 state treasury.

29 (2) All income received from investment of the treasurer's trust  
30 fund shall be set aside in an account in the treasury trust fund to be  
31 known as the investment income account.

32 (3) The investment income account may be utilized for the payment  
33 of purchased banking services on behalf of treasurer's trust funds  
34 including, but not limited to, depository, safekeeping, and  
35 disbursement functions for the state treasurer or affected state  
36 agencies. The investment income account is subject in all respects to

1 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for payments to  
2 financial institutions. Payments shall occur prior to distribution of  
3 earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

4 (4)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings  
5 credited to the investment income account to the state general fund  
6 except under (b) and (c) of this subsection.

7 (b) The following accounts and funds shall receive their  
8 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or fund's  
9 average daily balance for the period: The Washington promise  
10 scholarship account, the college savings program account, the  
11 Washington advanced college tuition payment program account, the  
12 agricultural local fund, the American Indian scholarship endowment  
13 fund, the foster care scholarship endowment fund, the foster care  
14 endowed scholarship trust fund, the students with dependents grant  
15 account, the basic health plan self-insurance reserve account, the  
16 contract harvesting revolving account, the Washington state combined  
17 fund drive account, the commemorative works account, the Washington  
18 international exchange scholarship endowment fund, the developmental  
19 disabilities endowment trust fund, the energy account, the fair fund,  
20 the fruit and vegetable inspection account, the future teachers  
21 conditional scholarship account, the game farm alternative account, the  
22 GET ready for math and science scholarship account, the grain  
23 inspection revolving fund, the juvenile accountability incentive  
24 account, the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' plan 2  
25 expense fund, the local tourism promotion account, the produce railcar  
26 pool account, the regional transportation investment district account,  
27 the rural rehabilitation account, the stadium and exhibition center  
28 account, the youth athletic facility account, the self-insurance  
29 revolving fund, the sulfur dioxide abatement account, the children's  
30 trust fund, the Washington horse racing commission Washington bred  
31 owners' bonus fund account, the Washington horse racing commission  
32 class C purse fund account, the individual development account program  
33 account, the Washington horse racing commission operating account  
34 (earnings from the Washington horse racing commission operating account  
35 must be credited to the Washington horse racing commission class C  
36 purse fund account), the life sciences discovery fund, and the reading  
37 achievement account. However, the earnings to be distributed shall

1 first be reduced by the allocation to the state treasurer's service  
2 fund pursuant to RCW 43.08.190.

3 (c) The following accounts and funds shall receive eighty percent  
4 of their proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's or  
5 fund's average daily balance for the period: The advanced right of way  
6 revolving fund, the advanced environmental mitigation revolving  
7 account, the city and county advance right-of-way revolving fund, the  
8 federal narcotics asset forfeitures account, the high occupancy vehicle  
9 account, the local rail service assistance account, and the  
10 miscellaneous transportation programs account.

11 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state  
12 Constitution, no trust accounts or funds shall be allocated earnings  
13 without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act  
15 constitute a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

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